

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** December 13, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on December 7, 2001

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Thomas V. Skinner  
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Removal Completion, Riverdale Chemical Company, Chicago Heights, Illinois**

In November 2001, final construction activities were completed at the Riverdale Chemical Company in Chicago Heights, Illinois. The construction activities undertaken were initiated in July 2001 and followed a Phase I Removal Action that was completed in June 2001. Construction work which was completed at the site included the installation of an asphalt engineered barrier, installation of a storm water retention system, and establishment of institutional controls in the form of deed restrictions. All sampling, excavation, and disposal of contaminated soil occurred during the Phase I Removal Action. A Notice of Completion was issued to Riverdale on December 6, 2001, documenting that all work had been completed in accordance with the Administrative Order on Consent.

Contact: Callie Bolattino (312-353-3490)

**Notice of Completion, Forked Creek Site, Celotex Corporation, Wilmington, Illinois**

On November 16, 2001, a Notice of Completion was sent to Celotex Corporation informing the company that work under an Administrative Order by Consent had been satisfactorily completed. The Order was issued March 1, 2000, under the

authorities in the Clean Water Act and the Oil Pollution Act. The Order was issued because of shingles and other petroleum-based materials which were half-buried along several sections of the banks of Forked Creek and the Kankakee River. The Order required that materials be excavated and the banks stabilized to minimize erosion. The work required in the Order was completed on March 17, 2000. Upon reviewing the final report, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Karen Vendl and Office of Regional Counsel (ORC) representative Rich Murawski conducted the final inspection on October 23, 2001.

Contact: Karen Vendl (312-886-7194)

### **Removal Action Begins, Lefton Iron & Metal, East St. Louis, Illinois**

In late October 2001, the Emergency Response Branch (ERB) began the cleanup of the Lefton Iron & Metal site in the City of East St. Louis, Illinois. This removal action is part of a larger effort within the City of East St. Louis to identify areas that may be contributing to elevated levels of lead within residential properties. The site is divided into two parcels totaling 14 acres and is surrounded by both residential and industrial properties. The site has a long history of various waste practices and has been targeted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) for numerous sampling efforts. The two parcels are littered with up to 6000 tons of scrap metal which must be moved before the lead and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated soils can be addressed. Several different waste streams will be removed off site, including lead and PCBs contaminated soils, tires, drums, cylinders, rail road ties, and general construction debris.

Contacts: Kevin Turner (618-997-0115)  
Mike Harris (312-886-0760)  
Thomas Cook (312-886-7182)  
Valerie Mullins (312-353-5578)

### **Complaint Issued, Luigino's, Inc., Duluth, Minnesota**

On December 3, 2001, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, issued a complaint against Luigino's Inc., Duluth, Minnesota. The complaint alleges that Luigino's Inc., failed to submit a Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form (Tier I or II) to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and fire department, for the 1996, 1997, and 1998 calendar years, pursuant to the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). This facility was storing 9,700 pounds of ammonia. Ammonia is a

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) hazardous substance and an EPCRA "extremely hazardous substance" with a minimum storage threshold of 500 pounds. The U.S. EPA is proposing a \$51,126 penalty.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

**Media Briefings (Radiation), Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund Site, Uniontown, Ohio**

On November 28-29, 2001, representatives from the Region 5 office, including Bill Muno, and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) briefed three newspapers and two television stations in the Akron/Canton area about the lifting of a judicial confidentiality order concerning recent allegations of military dumping by the former owner of the Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund site in Uniontown, Ohio. The two agencies had jointly investigated a claim by Mr. Charles Kittinger that sometime in the late 1960's or early 1970's he oversaw the disposal of three six-foot by eight-foot stainless steel "eggs" containing plutonium-238 by an undetermined unit of the U.S. military. Mr. Kittinger later came to believe these objects were nuclear bombs. U.S. EPA and DOJ's 126-page investigation report, completed in October 2001, determined that the allegation was not credible or based in fact. The Judge who ordered the investigation concurred with these findings in a 24-page opinion.

Contact: Ross del Rosario (312-886-6195)

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**

**Tenth Year Anniversary of the Documents Management Section, Chicago, Illinois**

On November 14, 2001, the staff of the Documents Management Section (DMS) celebrated their tenth anniversary. Of the many achievements that the DMS has experienced, the main focus was the continued maintenance of a "0" backlog for Fiscal Year 2001.

Nine hundred sixty-eight Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests were closed within 20 days and one hundred twenty-three were closed in 30 days for the period of October 1, 2000 to September 30, 2001. Thirty-six were closed in 30 days or more.

Contact: Shirley Smith (312-353-9173)

**Meeting, Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot, City of Hamilton, Ohio**

On November 27, 2001, Linda Morgan and Brooke Furio met with the City of Hamilton, Ohio. This meeting was to discuss their Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot (BCRLF). Representatives from the Hamilton Economic Development Department and the Finance Department were in attendance. Discussion centered on the Ohio Memorandum of Agreement as it relates to the BCRLF program. The City of Hamilton was awarded a BCRLF cooperative agreement in 2000.

Contact: Linda Morgan (312-886-4747)

**TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

**Oil Production Training, Springfield, Illinois**

On December 6, 2001, members of the Oil Planning and Response Section attended a one-day training session put on by staff from the Oil and Gas Division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The course began at the DNR office where attendees learned the basics of installation and operation of oil wells, tanks batteries, injection wells, and pits. The group then toured the DNR educational trailer which contains a model of oil field operations. The last part of the course was a tour in the field to see some operating wells and tank batteries. Attending the class from the Oil Planning and Response Section (OPRS) were: On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Karen Vendl, Chief Beverly Kush, Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) staff (Barb Carr and Bob McCoy), and Isalee Coleman. By attending this class, OPRS staff will be able to better perform cleanups and SPCC inspections on oil production facilities.

Contact: Karen Vendl (312-886-7194)

**Spill Response Exercise and Training Session, Koch Pipeline, Alton, Illinois**

On December 6, 2001, Barbi Lee and Chris Christenson of the Oil Planning and Response Section attended the Koch Pipeline Spill Exercise and Training Session in Alton, Illinois, for U.S. EPA Region 5. Ten personnel from the Koch corporate offices in Saint Paul, Minnesota, comprised the unified command and 45 persons were in attendance as trainee participants. The scenario consisted of a leak in the company's line 5 miles from its

Hartford, Illinois, Terminal, which released 10,000 barrels (bbls) of crude into a drainage ditch near the Mississippi River East Bank Levee approximately 500 yards east of the Mississippi River, with approximately 1,000 bbls reaching the Chain of Rocks Canal, which is situated along the east bank of the River. The exercise consisted of three moves played by the Koch personnel with each move followed by questions from and discussion with members of the audience. Personnel attending included staff from U.S. EPA Regions 5 and 7, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the U.S. Coast Guard, the Red Cross, Phillips Pipeline Company, Marathon Ashland Pipeline Company, and several Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and Fire, Police, and Sheriff Departments from the surrounding communities.

Contacts: Barbi Lee (312-886-5296)  
Chris Christenson (312-353-6303)

**Meeting, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Des Plaines, Illinois**

On December 6, 2001, Mark Horwitz, Bob Mayhugh, Silvia Palomo, and Yvonne Vicente of the Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP) met with representatives from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and industry at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Training Institute in Des Plaines, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss OCEPP's implementation of the Risk Management Program under 112(r) of the Clean Air Act. The meeting was called due to an ongoing NTSB investigation into a railcar incident at Atofina Chemical in Riverview, Michigan. During the meeting, NTSB had questions regarding the Risk Management Planning (RMP) program in general, OCEPP's inspection and audit procedures, and program delegation. Aside from the OCEPP staff, the meeting was attended by two accident investigators from NTSB, and representatives of Atofina Chemical, Union Tank Car, and Midland Manufacturing.

Contacts: Mark Horwitz (312-353-0945)  
Bob Mayhugh (312-886-5929)

**Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 5 Regional Interagency Steering Committee Meeting, Chicago, Illinois**

On December 4 and 5, 2001, the Fiscal Year 2002 Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) meeting was held at the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 5 (FEMA5) office in Chicago, Illinois. Glenn Cekus (OCEPP) attended both days with

Ann Whelan (Oil Planning and Response Section) attending on December 4, 2001, and Tom Geishecker (Emergency Response Branch) on December 5, 2001. This meeting covered the last six months of the Federal Response Plan related activity because the previous meeting, scheduled for September 11 and 12, 2001, was cancelled due to the terrorist events of September 11, 2001. Some of the topics covered and included the FEMA5 role in urban search and rescue at the World Trade Center terrorist event; an update on the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (especially noteworthy given the recent anthrax incidents); Continuity of Operations Planning by Federal government agencies and departments; and, the recently completed Joint Federal/State Assessment on Terrorist Preparedness. Ms. Whelan gave an update on the U.S. EPA Region 5 activities, especially involving support of response activities in New York and Washington, D.C., along with response to the many reported anthrax threats.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

**Meeting (Possible Grant Application), Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot, City of Norwood, Ohio**

On November 26, 2001, Brooke Furio met with several representatives of the City of Norwood, Ohio. The City of Norwood requested the meeting to discuss the City's possible application for a Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. The Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot offers \$250,000 to a local government to be used for environmental site assessment activities. The City has identified one large site with past industrial uses. This site is particularly attractive for redevelopment, because of its close proximity and great access to Interstate 75.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

**Meeting (Possible Grant Application), Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot, Village of Lincoln Heights, Ohio**

On November 27, 2001, Brooke Furio met with several representatives of the Village of Lincoln Heights, Ohio. The Village of Lincoln Heights requested the meeting to discuss the Village's possible application for a Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. The Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot offers \$250,000 to a local government to be used for environmental site assessment activities. The Village of Lincoln Heights has several large brownfields that are located throughout the Village. The Village of Lincoln Heights is only 0.8 square miles, with 39% of the households below the poverty rate. The Village has recently completed a strategic plan that recommends redeveloping several of these sites to help increase tax

revenues.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

### **STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**

#### **Note of Thanks (Federal Facilities), Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Dayton, Ohio**

On December 7, 2001, in an email to William E. Muno, Director, Superfund Division, Graham Mitchell, Chief, Office of Federal Facilities Oversight, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, wrote the following: "I wanted to send this note to thank you and your staff for all your efforts and support on Federal facility issues in Ohio. We have made significant progress on all of our federal facilities since we started to work together on Fernald in the late 1980's. I wanted to particularly point out the work of Ken Tindall and his staff. Let's keep making progress!"

Contact: Ken Tindall, (312-886-9895)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)  
 Barry Breen (OECA)  
 Steve Luftig (OSWER)  
 Larry Reed (OERR)  
 Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)  
 Craig Beasley (OSWER)  
 Michael Shapiro (OSWER)  
 Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)  
 Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators  
 Division/Office Directors  
 ORA State Coordinators  
 Regional Team Managers